<u>**Amendments to the claims:**</u>

Please amend claims 4 and 5, and add new claims 8-11 as shown in the following listing of claims. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1   1.   (original) A messenger system for storing and transferring a file using an

2   Internet messenger, the messenger system including a messenger server and a

3   plurality of messenger clients connected to the messenger server for exchanging a

4   message or file with the messenger server, comprising:

5   a messenger function-performing file storage unit connected to the messenger

6   server,

7   wherein the messenger function-performing file storage unit comprises:

8   a messenger function-performing unit for receiving a file, which will be

9   transferred from a user of a messenger client serving as a sender to a user of a

10   messenger client serving as a recipient among the plurality of the messenger clients,

11   and transmitting the received file to the user of the messenger client serving as the

12   recipient;

13   a file storage unit for storing the file received through the messenger function-

14   performing unit therein; and

15   a control unit for controlling storing the file received through the messenger

16   function-performing unit in the file storage unit and transferring the file stored in the

17   file storage unit to a user of a messenger client serving as a recipient when the user of

18   the messenger client serving as the recipient accepts the receipt of the file.

1   2.   (original) A messenger system for storing and transferring a file using an

2   Internet messenger, the messenger system including a messenger server and a

3   plurality of messenger clients connected to the messenger server for exchanging a

4   message or file with the messenger server, comprising:

5   a messenger function-performing file storage unit connected to the messenger

6   server,

7   wherein the messenger function-performing file storage unit comprises:

8   a messenger function-performing unit for receiving a file that a user of any

9   one of the plurality of the messenger clients wishes to store and transmitting the

10   received file to a user of the messenger client;

11   a file storage unit for storing the file received through the messenger function-

12   performing unit therein; and

13   a control unit for controlling storing the file received through the messenger

14   function-performing unit in the file storage unit and transferring the file stored in the

15   file storage unit to a user of the messenger client through the messenger function-

16   performing unit when there is a request from the user of the messenger client.

1   3.   (original) The system as claimed in claim 1, wherein a firewall is installed

2   between the messenger server and the messenger client serving as the sender or

3   between the messenger server and the messenger client serving as the recipient, and

4   a web interface for connecting the messenger client and the messenger

5   function-performing file storage unit through the firewall is further provided between

6   the firewall and the messenger function-performing file storage unit, whereby the user

7   of the messenger client can receive or store the file that is being stored in the file

8   storage unit using a web browser.

1   4.   (currently amended) The system as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1 to 3~~ claim

2   1, wherein the file storage unit is a storage system provided on the Internet.

1 5.   (currently amended) The system as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1 to 3~~ <u>claim</u>

2 <u>1</u>, wherein at least one of the plurality of the messenger clients has a plug-in program

3 installed, and

4   the messenger function-performing file storage unit further comprises a file

5 transmission/reception-executing unit that allows the messenger client having the

6 plug-in program installed in and the messenger function-performing file storage unit

7 to exchange a file directly through the plug-in program.

1 6.   (original) A method for storing/transferring a file in/to a messenger system

2 including a messenger server, a plurality of transmission/reception messenger clients

3 connected to the messenger server for exchanging a message or file with the

4 messenger server, and a messenger function-performing file storage unit connected to

5 the messenger server and having a messenger function and a file storage function,

6 comprising the steps of:

7   allowing the messenger function-performing file storage unit to receive a file,

8 which is to be transferred from a user of a messenger client serving as a sender to a

9 user of a messenger client serving as a recipient among the plurality of the messenger

10 clients, through the messenger function and then to store the file therein through the

11 file storage function; and

12   transferring a file stored in the messenger function-performing file storage unit

13 to a user of a messenger client serving as a recipient through the messenger function

14 when the user of the messenger client serving as the recipient accepts the receipt of

15 the file.

1   7.   (original) A method for storing/transferring a file in/to a messenger system
2   including a messenger server, a plurality of transmission/reception messenger clients
3   connected to the messenger server for exchanging a message or file with the
4   messenger server, and a messenger function-performing file storage unit connected to
5   the messenger server and having a messenger function and a file storage function,
6   comprising the steps of:
7   allowing the messenger function-performing file storage unit to receive a file
8   that will be stored by a user of any one of the plurality of the messenger clients
9   through the messenger function and then to store the file therein through the file
10   storage function; and
11   transferring a file stored in the messenger function-performing file storage unit
12   to a user of a messenger client through the messenger function when there is a request
13   from the user of the messenger client.

1   8.   (new) The system as claimed in claim 2, wherein the file storage unit is a
2   storage system provided on the Internet.

1   9.   (new) The system as claimed in claim 3, wherein the file storage unit is a
2   storage system provided on the Internet.

1   10.   (new) The system as claimed in claim 2, wherein at least one of the plurality
2   of the messenger clients has a plug-in program installed, and
3   the messenger function-performing file storage unit further comprises a file
4   transmission/reception-executing unit that allows the messenger client having the
5   plug-in program installed in and the messenger function-performing file storage unit
6   to exchange a file directly through the plug-in program.

1   11.   (new) The system as claimed in claim 3, wherein at least one of the plurality
2   of the messenger clients has a plug-in program installed, and
3   the messenger function-performing file storage unit further comprises a file
4   transmission/reception-executing unit that allows the messenger client having the
5   plug-in program installed in and the messenger function-performing file storage unit
6   to exchange a file directly through the plug-in program.